

Message Text

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07008 041301Z

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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9299

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 7008

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY AND STOESSEL FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: NAC MINISTERIAL

1. AT THE RISK OF LIMPING BEHIND YOUR THOUGHT
I RECOMMEND THAT, IN YOUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS
DURING YOUR VISIT TO EUROPE (TALK TO PILGRIMS?),
YOU EXPRESS RENEWED U.S. SUPPORT FOR A UNITED
EUROPE. I REALIZE THAT THIS IS HARDLY A NEW
THOUGHT; BUT, READING THE CURRENT MOOD IN THIS
REGION, IT IS THE ONE THEME THAT WOULD SERVE BEST
OUR INTERESTS AT THIS TIME.

2. OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES NEED TO HEAR THAT WE
RECOGNIZE THEIR CURRENT DIFFICULTIES IN
RECONCILING NATIONAL, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND
ATLANTIC COMMUNITY INTERESTS; THAT WE ARE MINDFUL
OF THE PROGRESS THEY HAVE MADE; THAT WE WANT TO
GO ON WORKING WITH THEM IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES
AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST; AND THAT, WHEN ALL IS
SAID AND DONE, THE GREATNESS OF EUROPE HAS BEEN
AND WILL BE A CRUCIAL FACTOR OF WORLD AFFAIRS.

3. I AM FULLY AWARE THAT, AT THIS MOMENT, EUROPE
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IS NEITHER UNITED NOR GREAT NOR IMAGINATIVE OR
FORTHCOMING ABOUT WORKING WITH US. BUT THE MIDDLE
EAST CRISIS HAS LEFT EUROPE IN A STATE OF SHOCK
AND DISARRAY. HENCE, AN UPBEAT EMPHASIS, COMING

AFTER CERTAIN NEGATIVE REACTIONS THAT WE HAVE
CONVEYED TO THE EUROPEANS COLLECTIVELY, WOULD
HELP TO INHIBIT A PERVERSE TURN OF EUROPE AWAY
FROM US, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE PERSISTENT
EFFORTS OF OTHERS TO BRING ABOUT JUST SUCH A
TURN. IN BRIEF, I BELIEVE THE THERAPEUTIC TREAT-
MENT THAT I SUGGEST MIGHT HELP TO STEADY OUR
EUROPEAN ALLIES. IT IS BY NO MEANS UNLIKELY THAT
THE MIDEAST CRISIS AND ITS OIL AFTERMATH WILL
AROUSE THE EUROPEAN PUBLICS FROM THEIR EUPHORIA,
AND THAT AROUSED PUBLIC OPINION WILL STIFFEN THE
SPINE OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. A BOOST FROM US
COULD HASTEN THIS TRANSFORMATION AND CHANNEL IT
INTO DIRECTIONS HELPFUL TO US, NAMELY, A MORE
COHESIVE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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